

AC 4417

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Public Health Department
Municipal Offices,
1 Western Parade,
Portsmouth.

To the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the work of the Port Health Authority of Portsmouth during the year 1952.

SECTION I - Staff

TABLE A

<u>Name of officer</u>	<u>Nature of appointment</u>	<u>Date of appointment</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Any other appointments held</u>
T. E. Roberts.	Port Medical Officer of Health	1.11.47.	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, City of Portsmouth.
E. F. Appleton.	Chief Port Health Inspector	1.1.52.	M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.	Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of Portsmouth.

Address and telephone number of
the Medical Officer of Health -

Official - 1, Western Parade, Portsmouth, 74581, Ext. 144

Private - 3, Carnarthen Avenue, Cosham, Portsmouth. 76143

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	308	59,316	1	48	1
Coastwise (includes local traffic between Southampton, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth)	2764	580,932	-	115	-
Total	3072	640,248	1	163	1

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the yearTABLE C

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

Cargo Traffic. The principal imports were coal, cement, stone, oil, timber, glassware, building materials, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cauliflower, citrus fruits, apples, pears, peaches, nuts and general cargo traffic, from France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Norway, North Africa, Spain and Channel Islands.

The principal exports were pitch, machinery, scrap iron, fertilizers, barley and general cargo.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic

There is no inland barge traffic.

SECTION V - Water supply

- (1) The water used in the Docks is supplied by the Portsmouth Water Company. Vessels in dock are supplied from hydrants on the quay.
- (2) Samples are taken periodically by the Public Analyst of the City of Portsmouth and reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.
- (3) With regard to the supply of drinking water to ships arriving at and leaving the port, the following precautions are taken before water is supplied.

When the water is turned on it is allowed to run through the hydrants for a while and then the hose is connected and the water allowed to run through the hose in the same way. When the quantity of water needed has been supplied the hose is disconnected, the water allowed to run through, and the hose replaced in the store, where it is locked up safely. The hydrants are locked and covered up also, and the area in the vicinity of the hydrants and hose pipes is kept scrupulously clean by washing down.

- (4) There are two Admiralty water boats, controlled by them.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

- (1) List of Infected Areas.

The weekly Ministry of Health record of quarantinable diseases is supplied by the Port Medical Officer of Health to the Chief Port Health Inspector and the Chief Preventive Officer, H.M. Customs and Excise.

- (2) Radio Messages.

The telegraphic address "Portelth", suggested by the Ministry of Health, has been adopted by the Port Health Authority for radio communication between them and shipping entering the district. The Master of a ship equipped with a radio transmitting apparatus must, if there are any circumstances on board requiring the attention of the Medical Officer, send a wireless message to "Portelth" Portsmouth, stating the name of his vessel and the time on the 24-hour clock she is expected to arrive. This message must be sent off not more than 12 hours and not less than 4 hours before the arrival of the ship.

- (3) Notifications Otherwise than by Radio.

The Master of a ship not fitted with a radio transmitting apparatus must notify the Port Health Authority, whenever practicable before arrival and otherwise immediately on arrival, of any circumstances requiring the attention of the Medical Officer. International flag signals may be used for this purpose. These messages would normally be received by an officer of H.M. Customs and transmitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) Mooring Stations.

The following mooring stations have been established, with the concurrence of the Queen's Harbour Master and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise; these are subject to variation by the Commander-in-Chief, should the necessity arise.

(a) OUTER MOORING STATION.

An area about half a mile north-west of Mother of Bank Spit.

(b) INNER MOORING STATION.

The upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This agreement is subject to the following understandings:-

- (1) That the mooring place referred to at (a) above is for ships with cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox on board, and that at (b) for all other unhealthy ships not within a standing exemption.
- (2) That a standing exemption from detention has been granted by the Medical Officer of the Port Health Authority in respect of any ship which:-
 - (i) has called at a port or seaboard included in the weekly return of infected or suspected ports or seabords, but reports "all well" during the voyage, or arrives with no sickness on board, unless a written notice to the contrary has been delivered to the Customs Officer by or on behalf of the Medical Officer of the Port Health Authority.
 - (ii) has on board a case of minor infectious disorder, namely, chickenpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, erysipelas, malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, mumps or cerebro-spinal fever.
- (3) That when necessary the Port Health Authority will convey the Customs Officers to the mooring place referred to as (a) above, free of expense to the Crown.

(5) Arrangements for -

- (a) Hospital accommodation. Cases of infectious diseases are removed to the Portsmouth Infectious Diseases Hospital by means of the Municipal Ambulance and Medical Car Service.
- (b) Surveillance. Contacts of infectious diseases cases:
 - (i) Living in the City. If not removed to hospital they are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.
 - (ii) Proceeding to an address outside the City. The Medical Officer of Health of the place of destination is advised.

Accommodation is available at the docks for the medical examination of suspected cases if necessary.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection. Personnel and clothing are disinfected at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Provision can be made for the temporary accommodation of persons who may have to be detained pending examination. Cleansing of ships is carried out by the disinfecting staff of the Health Department.

SECTION VII - Smallpox

- (1) Cases of smallpox are removed to the smallpox hospital at Crabwood, near Winchester.
- (2) Cases are conveyed by the Portsmouth Municipal Ambulance and Medical Car Service, the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews being:- 2 vaccinated in March 1953, 15 in February 1952, 17 in January 1951, 1 in 1940, 2 not known.
- (3) The smallpox consultant is Dr. I.M. McLachlan, Physician Superintendent, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Portsmouth (Tel. 2046).
- (4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox exist, by arrangement with the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Area Pathological Service, at the Central Laboratory, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Portsmouth.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease

Confidential treatment can be obtained free at the Special Department, Saint Mary's Hospital, Milton Road, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 to 7 p.m. (no appointment needed). In-patient accommodation is available at one of the general hospitals in the City. Cards giving the above information regarding out-patient treatment are supplied by the Medical Officer of Health to the Harbour Master for distribution to shipping entering the Port.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on shipsTABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Suspected smallpox (not confirmed)	-	1	1
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

On Tuesday, 13th May, 1952, at 10.15 a.m. the Medical Officer of Health received a message from H.M. Customs and Excise that they had been informed by the Port Medical Officer of Swansea that the tanker "Derwentdale" had left that Port and was proceeding to Portsmouth. A case of suspected smallpox had been landed from the ship at Swansea on 23rd April. The Portsmouth Medical Officer of Health accordingly 'phoned the Medical Officer of Health of Swansea, who gave the history of the case and action already taken.

On the 14th May, the "Derwentdale" arrived at Spithead, and in the evening the local smallpox consultant, Dr. I.M. McLachlan and the Medical Officer of Health visited the ship with the Customs authorities, and inspected every member of the crew stripped to the waist, comprising some forty-eight lascars, together with the officers. All appeared in good health, and on the 15th instant the ship proceeded to Portsmouth Harbour to discharge her cargo of fuel oil at the Naval jetty. The above information was passed to the Medical Officer of Health of Glasgow where the ship was next due to call.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

No malaria occurred in ships during the year.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

No plague or suspected plague occurred in ships during the year.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

- (1) Vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Health Inspector. Rat disinfestation is carried out by the Rodent Control Section of the Health Department in the Port area.
- (2) Bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents can be carried out at the Central Laboratory, Infectious Diseases Hospital; none was examined during the year.
- (3) The Port is not approved for the deratting of ships and, by agreement with Southampton Port Health Authority, this is undertaken by them. Seven certificates were issued in respect of local coastwise vessels during the year.
- (4) When necessary, rat guards are placed on ropes between ships and quays.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
Black rats	-
Brown rats	-
Species not known	-
Sent for examination	-
Infected with plague	-

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

Not applicable.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisancesTABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Primary 140	-	20	-
Others 23	-	-	17 complied with
Total 163	-	20	-

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934 and 1948

There are no shell-fish layings within the area of the Port Health Authority.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens (applicable only
to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

Not applicable.

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous

No special arrangements, other than those made by the shipping agents, exist at present for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

I desire to express my thanks to the Queen's Harbour Master and H.M. Collector of Customs and their staff for their cordial co-operation and valuable assistance during the year, and to record my appreciation of the excellent service rendered by the Port Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JBR Sub

Medical Officer of Health,
City and Port of Portsmouth.

7th April, 1953.

